

## **ROBUST SYSTEM FOR SCREENING MAIL FOR BIOLOGICAL AGENTS**

### **Abstract of the Disclosure**

- Items of mail are rapidly processed in a mail sampling system to determine if
- 5 the mail is contaminated with a chemical or biological agent. The mail sampling system maintains a negative pressure in a containment chamber and includes a triggering sampler that makes a threshold determination regarding possible contamination, and a detecting sampler that obtains a sample for more detailed analysis in response to a signal from the triggering sampler. A sample of particulates
- 10 collected from an item of mail is either removed for analysis or analyzed in the system to identify a contaminating agent. Optionally, the system includes an archiving sampler, which archives samples for subsequent processing and analysis, and a decontamination system, which is activated to decontaminate the mail if needed.

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